UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/47/L.13
28 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 61 (k)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: PROHIBITION OF THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Mauritania*: draft resolution

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988, 1/ and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989, 2/ adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/509 on the dumping of nuclear wastes, adopted on 29 September 1989 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-third regular session, 3/

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* Submitted on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

1/ See A/43/398, annex I.

2/ See A/44/603, annex I.

3/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-third Regular Session, 25-29 September 1989.

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Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session, 4/

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 5/ inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, 6/ of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, and in particular for the security of developing countries,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 7/

Aware also of the consideration of the question of dumping of radioactive wastes in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1992 session,

Recalling its resolution 46/36 of 6 December 1991, in which it had requested the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session progress recorded in the ongoing negotiations on this subject,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons; 8/

4/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17-21 September 1990.

5/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

6/ See A/46/390, annex I.

7/ Resolution S-10/2.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), para. 80.

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Also expresses grave concern at the recently reported effort to dump radiological and toxic wastes in Somalia;

4. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

6. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session the progress recorded in the ongoing negotiations on this subject;

7. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

8. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

9. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue keeping the subject under active review, including the desirability of concluding a legally binding instrument in this field;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".